

HORROR GROWS

Appalling Catastrophe at Chicago Increases in Dreadfulness as Its Sickening Details Become Known

Bodies Lie In Heaps Half Denuded and Their Hands Still Clutching the Pieces of Clothing Torn From Their Struggling Companions in the Fierce Battle for Life. Faces Trampled, Out of All Semblance to Humanity, and the Dead Lie On Other Dead Over Whom the Dying Crawled Towards Safety—Six Hundred Bodies Found, List Will Reach 700.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—At 9 o'clock this morning the police compiled a list of bodies recovered from the Iriquois holocaust. They found it numbered 591. With the prospect of finding other bodies in the debris, it is almost certain the number will exceed 600. The coroner still believes the total will reach 700, as the basement, upper dressing rooms, stage and part of the upper galleries have not been thoroughly searched. At the city hall, where the lists of the victims and the descriptions of the unidentified dead are being compiled, men, women and children through the corridors. The death list is being added to by the hospital reports, where the injured were taken. The police believe at least 250 were injured. Pumps are working on the basement, which was flooded. At every step in the building the police find diamonds, jewels and furs. No one is permitted to enter the building without the special

permit of the chief of police, and accompanied by a special guard. Thousands of dollars worth of wraps and jewels have been hauled to police headquarters.

The rear and side walls of the stage are in danger of falling. Architects today warned the firemen that the rear wall of the building might collapse at any moment, and crush to death all in that portion. William Dee, a wealthy contractor, whose two children, Edward aged 6, and Lois aged 3, and their nurse are missing, and who hired a special train from Mecca, Ind., today found the nurse and Lois. The latter was picked up crying in the streets in front of the theatre. The nurse is badly injured and in the hospital, and the boy is missing.

Cause of the Fire.

The many different accounts of the origin of the fire are conflicting, but the best reason given is that an electric wire on the lower part of a piece of drop scenery suddenly broke and was grounded. The fire spread rapidly toward the front of the stage, causing the members of the chorus, who were then engaged in the performance, to flee to the wings with screams of terror. The fire in itself, up to this time was not serious, and possibly could have been checked had not the asbestos curtain failed to work.

As soon as the fire was discovered Eddie Foy, the chief comedian of the company, shouted to lower the curtain, and this was immediately done. It descended about half way and then stuck. The fire was thus given prac-

tically a free through which a strong draught was setting, aided by the doors, which had been thrown open. In front of the theatre.

Burned Where They Sat.

With a roar and a bound the flames shot through the opening over the heads of the people on the first floor and, reaching clear up to those in the front balcony, caught them and burned them to death where they sat.

Immediately following this rush of flames there came an explosion which lifted the entire roof of the theatre from its walls, shattering the great skylight into fragments. As soon as the flames appeared beyond the curtain a man in the rear of the hall shouted, "Fire, fire," and the entire audience rose as one person and made for the doors. It is believed the explosion was caused by the flames coming in contact with the gas reservoirs of the theatre, causing them to burst.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—It was declared tonight by the management of the theatre that the fire was not caused by the grounding of an electric wire or to any defect in the equipment of the theatre. It was started, they allege, by the bursting of a calcium light apparatus. The conclusion was so great that it blew out the skylight over the stage and auditorium. This statement of the theatre management is contradicted by many people who were in the theatre, and who declared that when the explosion occurred they saw flames in a narrow streak crossing the wall near the upper part of the drop curtain.

W. A. Sellers, the house fireman, who was severely burned in trying to lower the asbestos curtain, describes the scene upon the stage and the cause as follows:

"I was standing in the wings when I heard the explosion, and then immediately went forward a cry of 'fire' from the stage and all over the theatre. Looking up, I saw that the curtain was ablaze, so I rang for the fire curtain. We got it half way down when the wind, rushing in from the broken skylights, belled it out so that it caught and we could not budge it. With the stage hands I climbed to where it was suspended and, together, we tried to push it down. Our efforts were futile, and seeing that no human power could move that fire curtain and that the stage was a mass of flames, I turned my attention toward warning the actors and trying to save those who were in trouble.

"The women were frantic and the men not much better. I stood at the stairway leading to the dressing-rooms, where the chorus people were located and kept some from going up to get their street clothes. As the others came down, I forced them to leave the building. I don't know how they ever got out, all those girls and men who came crowding down the stairs, for the stage entrance was blocked by a mass of flames."

As near as can be estimated at the present time, about 1500 people were in the theatre. Three hundred of these were on the first floor, the remainder being in the balconies and in

the hallways back of them.

The audience in its rush for the outer air seems to have chosen, for the greater part, to flee to the left entrance, and to attempt to make its way down the eastern stairway leading into the lobby of the theatre. Outside of the people burned and suffocated by gas, it was in these two doorways on the first and second balconies that the greatest loss of life occurred. When the firemen entered the building the dead were found stretched in a pile reaching from the head of the stairway at least eight feet from the door back to a point about five feet in the rear of the door.

This mass of dead bodies in the center of the doorway reached to within two feet of the top of the passageway. All of the corpses at this point were women and children.

Idea of the Fight for Life.

The fight for life which must have taken place at these two points is something simply beyond human power or adequately describe. Only a faint idea of its horror could be derived from the aspect of the bodies as they lay. Women on top of these masses of dead had been overtaken by death as they were crawling on their hands and knees over the bodies of those who had died before. Others lay with arms stretched out in the direction toward which lay life and safety, holding in their hands fragments of gar-

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

MENELIK HONORS AMERICANS

Offered to Decorate Each Member of of the Party

Will Send Roosevelt a Present of Two Lions and a Pair of Elephant Tusks

London, Dec. 31.—Advices from Adisabeta today state the American expedition, under Skinner, which has been visiting Menelik, was highly successful. It arranged a treaty between America and Ethiopia, assuring friendly commercial relations. Menelik also accepted an invitation to attend the St. Louis exposition. Menelik is going to send two lions and a pair of elephant tusks as a present to Roosevelt. He offered to decorate each member of the party.

PITIFUL SCENES AT MORGUE

Dry-Eyed, Anguish-Stricken Relatives Seek Their Dead

Weeping Has Given Place to Stolid Despair, It Is a Heart-breaking Scene

Still confronted by chaos that will take days to straighten, the police and coroner's officials at noon today, after 20 hours of continuous toil, admitted their inability to compile a correct list of the dead, injured and missing. A revised statement at that hour put the number of dead from 591 to 651, and the missing are placed at 200, probably among the unidentified dead and injured, 300 of whom the physicians report, and probably 100 of these fatally. Newspaper reports, compiled

(Continued on fifth page.)

Good Goods

Jos. Meyers & Sons
SALEM'S GREATEST STORE
THE WHITE CORNER

Honest Values

LOW PRICES HERE

Don't mean cheap goods. Not a bit of it. We use the term "low prices" in the comparative sense only. Some goods are too cheap for us to handle; others too dear—in neither case do you receive proper returns for the money expended. You can shop here with the full assurance that you are getting one hundred cents worth of value for each dollar spent.

Dress Goods

Dress goods constitute so large a stock as to cause surprise every day. Enough new styles to stock a dozen ordinary stores. More to see here than anywhere else within your reach.

Never before have we had such a variety of plain and colored dress goods. Finer texture than ever before; finer gradations of shade. Dray loads of similar goods, and such as "look the same" can be had but careful comparison shows ours to be different in width or strength or finish or something.

The "Cravenettes" are especially attractive just now on account of the damp and chilly weather. More new patterns from which to choose.

We are exclusive Salem agents for

CRAVENETTES.



Womna's Glove

Is one of the articles about which she is fastidious. She may be indifferent to her bonnet, may have small ambition as to her gown, but gloves—that's different. We show such a large assortment that you can select just to your liking, and at prices suited to your pocketbook.

Store Closes All Day Tomorrow
NEW YEARS



Expert fitters to wait on you, and this insures a perfect fit

Pretty Feet

Are sometimes clumsily clad. It often happens a foot is made prettier by selecting the right shoe. Our ladies' shoes are skillfully modeled. They are made in shape to fit all types of feet, and to make any foot attractive. You may say, "My foot is too broad, or too flat to look stylish in any shoes." Hundreds of our patrons once said the same thing, but we have fitted and pleased them. The new styles are here—vict ideal kid—patent leather, etc.

Are you a wearer of Queen Quality shoes? If not, we want you to come in and look the line over, as we are satisfied we can please you.

\$3.00 pair



Men's Clothing

Clothes that don't cost too much or too little! If too little they can't be good, if too much you don't get all you pay for. Great reductions on every suit and overcoat in the house.

\$10.00 reduced to
\$6.75

\$15.00 reduced to
\$9.50

\$20.00 reduced to
\$14.50

\$25.00 reduced to
\$16.00

Fresh Today

Log Cabin Creams, Peppermint Chews, Chocolate Chews and Peanut Candy at

Zinn's

154 State St. Phone 1971 Main

Our store will remain closed all day, New Years day.

20 Percent Reduction On Men's and Boys Overcoats

We have a good assortment of sizes and qualities for you to select from. If you have any use for an overcoat, now's the time to get one at

The New York Racket

Dolls, games, books, dressing cases, and pictures at exactly ONE-HALF PRICE.

Salem's Cheapest One Price Cash Store.
E. T. BARNES, Prop.